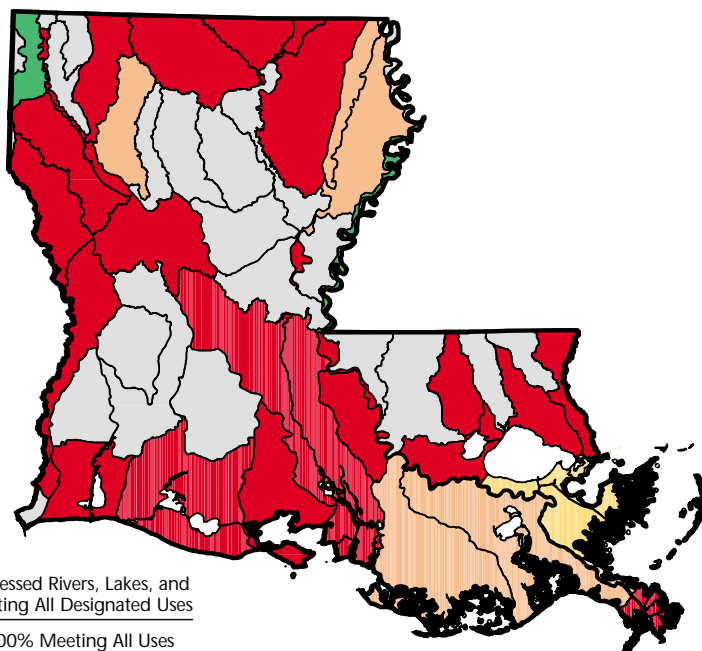


Louisiana



Percent of Assessed Rivers, Lakes, and Estuaries Meeting All Designated Uses

- 80% - 100% Meeting All Uses
- 50% - 79% Meeting All Uses
- 20% - 49% Meeting All Uses
- 0% - 19% Meeting All Uses
- Insufficient Assessment Coverage
- Basin Boundaries (USGS 8-Digit Hydrologic Unit)

For a copy of the Louisiana 1998 305(b) report, contact:

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The report is also available on the Internet at: <http://www.deq.state.la.us/planning/305b/>

Surface Water Quality

About 15% of the assessed stream miles, 10% of the assessed lake acres, and 11% of the assessed estuarine square miles in Louisiana have good water quality that fully supports aquatic life. Metals are cited as the largest suspected cause of impairment to the state's rivers, lakes, and estuarine waters. This is due to closer scrutiny of metals criteria for water quality and the increased sampling of fish for a mercury contamination study. The state notes that much of the impairment due to metals criteria

exceedances may be the result of sample contamination.

Organic enrichment/low dissolved oxygen, pathogens, and nutrients are also cited as major causes of stream impairment. Major sources of pollution to streams include agricultural practices, municipal point sources, and natural sources.

Major causes of lake impairment include organic enrichment/low dissolved oxygen, siltation, and turbidity. Major sources include atmospheric deposition, natural sources, and industrial point sources.

In estuarine waters, major causes of impairment include pathogen indicators and nutrients. Major sources of impairment include atmospheric deposition, natural sources, septic tanks, and land disposal.

Ground Water Quality

Water in the state's major aquifer systems continues to be of good quality. For this reporting cycle, EPA encouraged states to select an aquifer of hydrogeologic unit setting and discuss available data that best reflect the quality of the resources. Louisiana chose to discuss the baseline monitoring network for the Chicot Aquifer. The data indicated this aquifer to be of good quality with the exception of one well, indicating a localized area of concern.

Programs to Restore Water Quality

The water pollution controls employed by the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) include municipal and

industrial wastewater discharge permits, enforcement of permit requirements, review and certification of projects affecting water quality, and implementation of best management practices for nonpoint sources. In 1997, LDEQ was granted NPDES delegation by EPA. The LDEQ's Water Quality Management Division has implemented a nonpoint source management program and has been successful in implementing voluntary controls and education efforts. This has been done through coordination with other concerned agencies, such as the State Department of Agriculture and Forestry, the U.S. Natural Resource Conservation Service, and the Louisiana State University Cooperative Extension Service.

Programs to Assess Water Quality

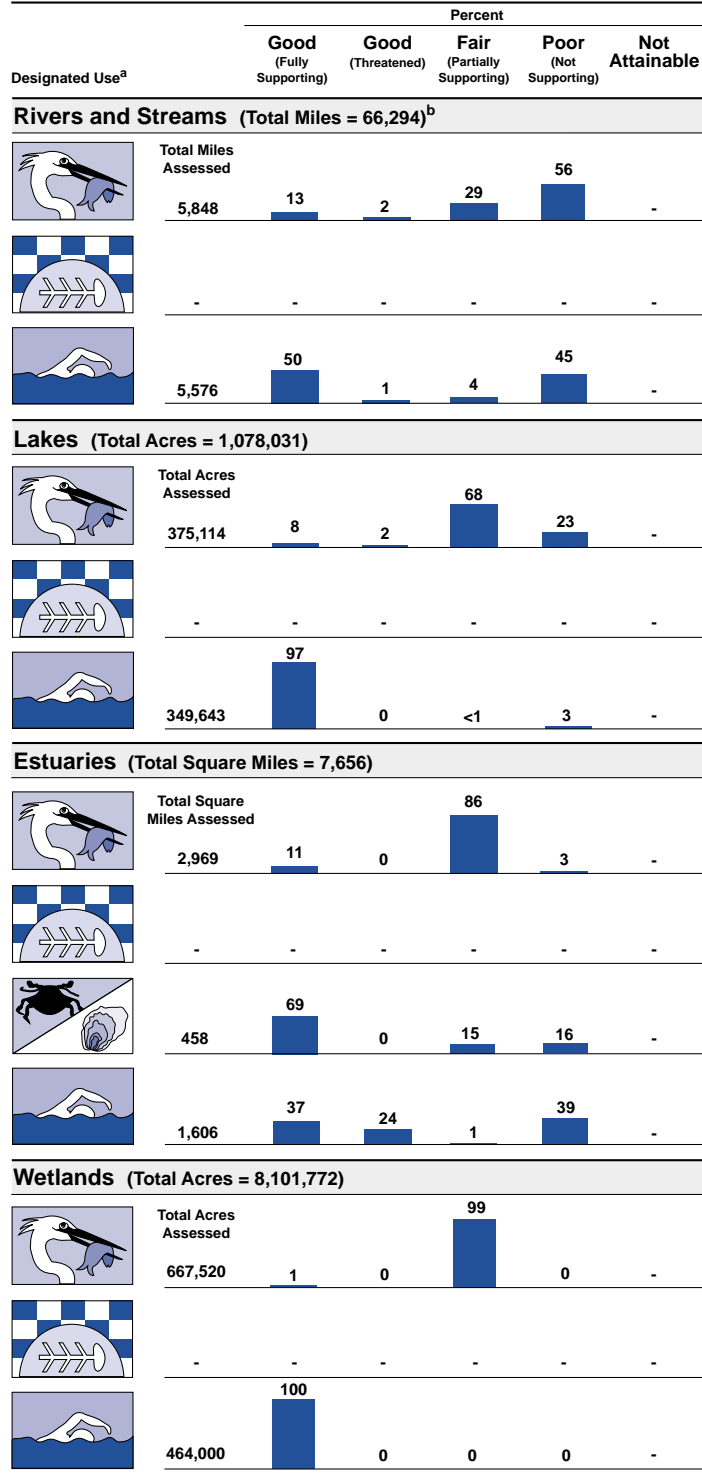
Louisiana's surface water monitoring program consists of a fixed-station long-term network, intensive surveys, special studies, and wastewater discharge compliance sampling. The LDEQ is currently revising its fixed-station monitoring program to operate on a 5-year cycle with sample collections occurring in two basins each year and rotating from year to year. While the state does not maintain a regular fish tissue monitoring program, fish are frequently sampled in response to complaints or as a result of enforcement actions.

– Not reported in a quantifiable format or unknown.

^a A subset of Louisiana's designated uses appear in this figure. Refer to the state's 305(b) report for a full description of the state's uses.

^b Includes nonperennial streams that dry up and do not flow all year.

Individual Use Support in Louisiana



Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.